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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/16/2007

SPONSOR M.P. Garcia LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HM 18

SHORT TITLE Homeless Study in Barelmas Neighborhood SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Schuss

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	\$60.0			\$60.0	Non- Recurring	General

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Human Services Department (HSD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 18 requests a study of Homelessness in New Mexico that focuses on the problems in the Barelmas Neighborhood of Albuquerque. The Human Services Department is requested to establish a new work group focused entirely on homelessness, with high priority given to focus on the problems of the Barelmas community as an example of a pattern occurring throughout New Mexico. The work group shall compile data on the needs of homeless persons in New Mexico, documenting at a minimum where the homeless persons in the Barelmas neighborhood originated. The work group will compile data and present it in the form of a report to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee before December 1, 2007, with special emphasis on the needs of the homeless population of the area and recommendations for ways to keep homeless people in their home towns by providing better services in smaller cities and providing better housing and employment options in urban areas where homeless persons are drawn by services. Copies of this memorial shall be transmitted to the heads of all Albuquerque area Homeless agencies, to the Secretary of Health and the Secretary of Human Services.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HSD reports that a full-time group coordinator will be needed in order for HSD to establish a new work group. It is estimated that a full-time work group coordinator would cost the agency

\$60,000 per year.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

HM 18 states that more than 3,000 of the state's homeless population of 8,000 live on Albuquerque's streets, and more than double the number of organizations serving the homeless population exists in Albuquerque as in the next city with a large population of homeless persons. The homeless population is drawn to live in Barelás as transportation connections, social services, medical supplies, groceries and a hospital are close by.

According to PED, Albuquerque Public Schools reported the following in 2005-06:

- 3,120 children and youths Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup>-grade were reported homeless.
- Their primary nighttime residences were the following: doubled-up, shelters, hotels/motels, unsheltered (e.g., cars, parks, campgrounds, etc.).
- The number receiving educational and school services were as follows:
  - 495 received special education services
  - 744 were English Language Learners
  - 23 were gifted and talented
  - 399 received vocational education services.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

HSD would be responsible for compiling a report due by December 1, 2007. With no funding in the HSD Executive Budget, HSD resources would need to be re-aligned in order to meet this deadline without the addition of personnel. It is estimated that a full-time work group coordinator would be needed at a projected cost of \$60,000.

## **RELATIONSHIP**

Relates to HB 172 which appropriates \$500,000 to the Children, Youth and Families Department to expand funding for homelessness programs statewide.

Relates to SB 586 which appropriates \$500,000 to the Human services Department to expand funding for homelessness programs statewide.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

According to HSD, MFA might be an appropriate entity to coordinate a work group of this magnitude due to the fact that MFA already receives funding from HSD for the Homeless Program and the funding is intended to cover emergency shelter, homeless prevention, permanent supportive housing, continuum of care and "essential services." Essential services include mental health counseling, employment counseling, substance abuse treatment and assistance in obtaining housing along with related services. The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness and MFA have already developed an action plan for New Mexico.

BS/csd